

From: Spencer Black
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 5:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Spencer Black

Artist

Microsoft Games Studios

801-275-6393

Scblack@microsoft.com <mailto:Scblack@microsoft.com>

O
0•
- -á- ||hhhhh- ,v6Tn ÷D:j,,,\$
\$
||äd
||

January 21, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

Three years ago, Microsoft was found to be in violation of established antitrust laws and was brought to trial in the federal courts. The Department of Justice and Microsoft, after six months of negotiations last year, managed in November to reach an agreement with which both parties are satisfied. Now, we find out that it will be determined whether it is in the best public interest to settle. The alternative is to reopen the case, and spend an indeterminate amount of time trying to reach a better settlement. Meanwhile, Microsoft's competitors and those who wish to gain from further litigation, including nine plaintiff states, are attempting to undermine the settlement during its review period. I do not believe that continued litigation would serve the public at all. The economy and the technology industry have suffered while this case has dragged on, and no good can come of extended suit. The settlement is fair, and, if finalized it will allow things to finally return to normal.

Microsoft has agreed to a variety of restrictions and obligations under the settlement, all of which would restore a fair competitive atmosphere within the technology market. For example, Microsoft has agreed not to take retaliatory action against any software producer or computer maker that introduces software into the market that competes with Microsoft.

I do not believe that it is in the best public interest to continue litigation. I urge you to support the settlement as it now stands.

Sincerely,

Spencer Black
Éæ____h?_OJQJh?_ h?_5üh?_5ü6üCJ jü7PlüédûÇ

MTC-00028753_0002